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AUTHOR Garlock, Jerry C.
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ABSTRACT

Data from enrollment figures at El Camino College (California) were traced over a twelve-year period in order to provide a basis for curriculum and program changes. The ratio of male to female enrollment has steadily narrowed until, in 1974, it has almost equalized. The percentage of students enrolled only in classes after 5:00 p.m. shows a slight, but steady decline. While 70 percent of the student body were freshmen in 1963, there has been a drop of from five to ten percent in the early 1970's. Sophomore enrollment has fluctuated over the years, as has the "other" category. The percentage of students enrolled in less than 12 units has increased rather markedly from 1970 to 1975, now standing at 75 percent. The percentage of students taking ten units or less shows a similar pattern. The percentage of students planning to transfer has fallen 20 percent since 1973. Although the percentage of first-time students is comparable to 1963 figures, the variation from Fall to Spring semester has dropped by approximately ten percentage points. (Included are six line graphs.) (NHM)

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AN ANALYSIS OF ENROLLMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF SPRING AND FALL SEMESTERS FROM 1963 TO 1975

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EL CAMINO COLLEGE

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EL CAMINO COLLEGE

JERRY C. GARLOCK, Ph.D.

AN ANALYSIS OF ENROLLMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF SPRING AND FALL SEMESTERS FROM 1963 TO 1975

It is important for a college to understand the longitudinal characteristics so that administrators can make plans consistent with these characteristics. For the present study, data were traced over a 12-year period and are presented to provide longitudinal comparisons of enrollment information at El Camino College.

Table 1 compares the percentage of male and female enrollment. In the fall of 1963, approximately one-third of the enrollment was composed of females, while two-thirds of the population was composed of males. These percentage values became closer over the years, and in the fall of 1974 were closer than at any other time in the past 12 years in which the percentage of females was within three per cent of constituting half of the enrollment. As was somewhat typical in other years, the per cent of female enrollment dropped in the spring of 1975. The asterisk in the right-hand portion of the figures indicates the 1963 values, and a difference between this reference point and the right-hand end of the line indicates the amount of difference between the 1963 and the 1975 data.

When the per cent enrollments of students enrolled before and after 5:00 p.m. are compared, the results are shown in Figure 2. In the spring of 1964, the per cent of those enrolled before 5:00 p.m. and after 5:00 p.m. were almost equal. Since that time, the percentage of students enrolled only in classes at 5:00 p.m. and later shows a slight but steady decline. In the spring of 1975, slightly more than one-third of the students are enrolled after 5:00 p.m., while slightly less than two-thirds are enrolled in classes before 5:00 p.m. or in classes before 5:00 p.m. as well as after 5:00 p.m..

Table 3 indicates that whereas in 1963 approximately 70 per cent of the college were freshmen, there has been a drop of from five to ten per cent in the early 1970's. Sophomore enrollment has fluctuated over the years, dropping in the late 1960's and rising around 1970, followed by a slight tendency to drop in percentage of enrollment since that time. The "other" category also fluctuated. In the late 1960's, a relatively high per cent of total population was "others," at one point reaching almost 15 per cent of the enrollment then dropping in 1970 and having a tendency to rise to approximately ten per cent in 1975.

The percentage of students enrolled in less than 12 units has increased rather markedly from 1970 to 1975. As in the case of Figures 2 and 3, spring and fall differences are shown in the figure. Dotted lines are drawn to emphasize the fluctuation between the two semesters. However, these differences have been less prominent since the spring of 1973. More than 75 per cent of the students enrolled at El Camino College took less than 12 units in the spring of 1975; whereas, only 25 per cent were enrolled in 12 units or more.

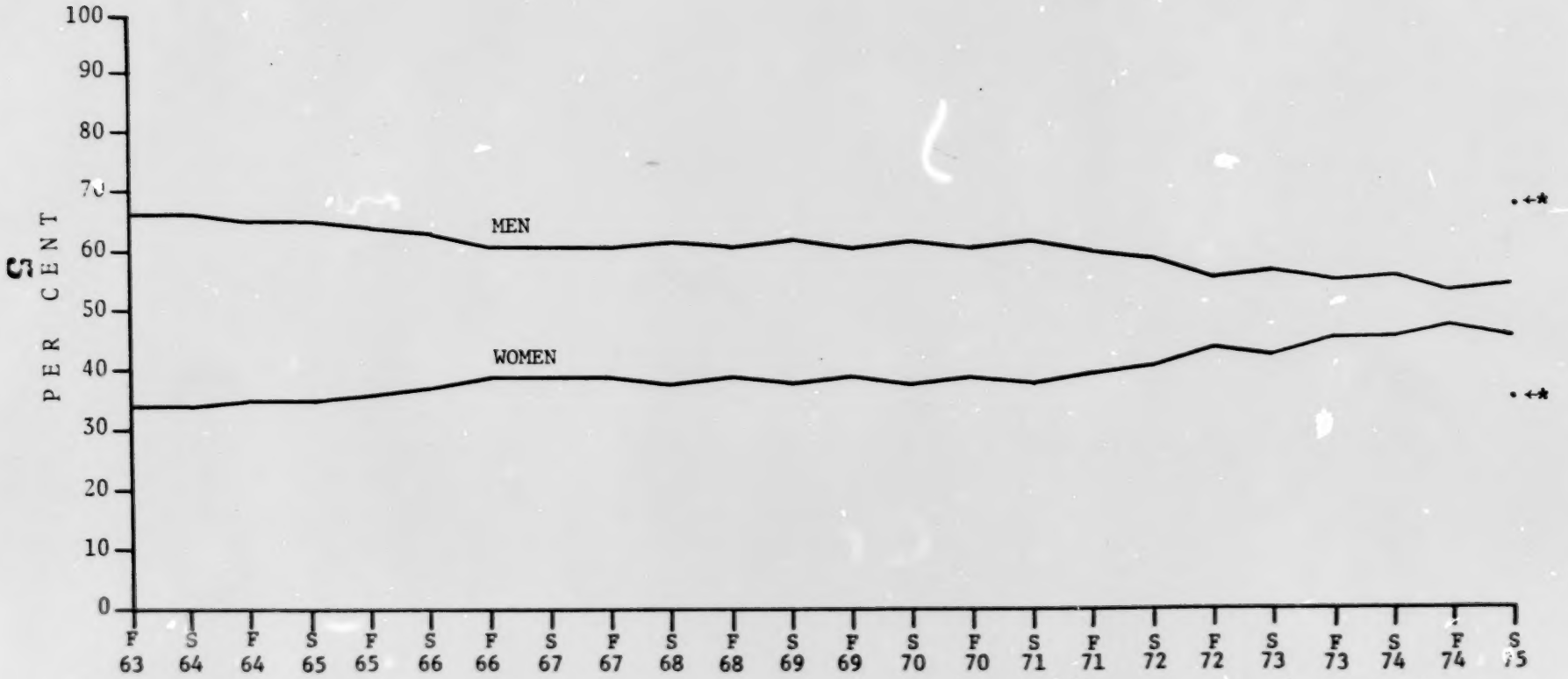
The percentage of students taking 10 units shows a similar pattern although the percentages are different. In the spring of 1975, approximately 60 per cent of the students enrolled in less than 10 units, while approximately 40 per cent enrolled in 10 units or more.

Figure 6 indicates information on high school graduates, those planning to transfer, and first-time students. The pattern of high school graduates has varied over the years. With these fluctuations, the asterisk shows that the difference between the percentage of high school graduates in 1975 compared with 1973 is approximately ten per cent higher, while those planning to transfer is approximately 20 per cent lower in 1975. First-time students at El Camino College show marked spring and fall differences although the differences are smaller in 1975 and in the mid-1960's. Although the percentage of first-time students is comparable to what it was in 1963 with little variation over the years, the per cent first-time students in the fall dropped by approximately ten percentage points.

These data show differences in enrollment characteristics over the years and are presented to provide a basis for curriculum and program changes at the College.

Figure 1

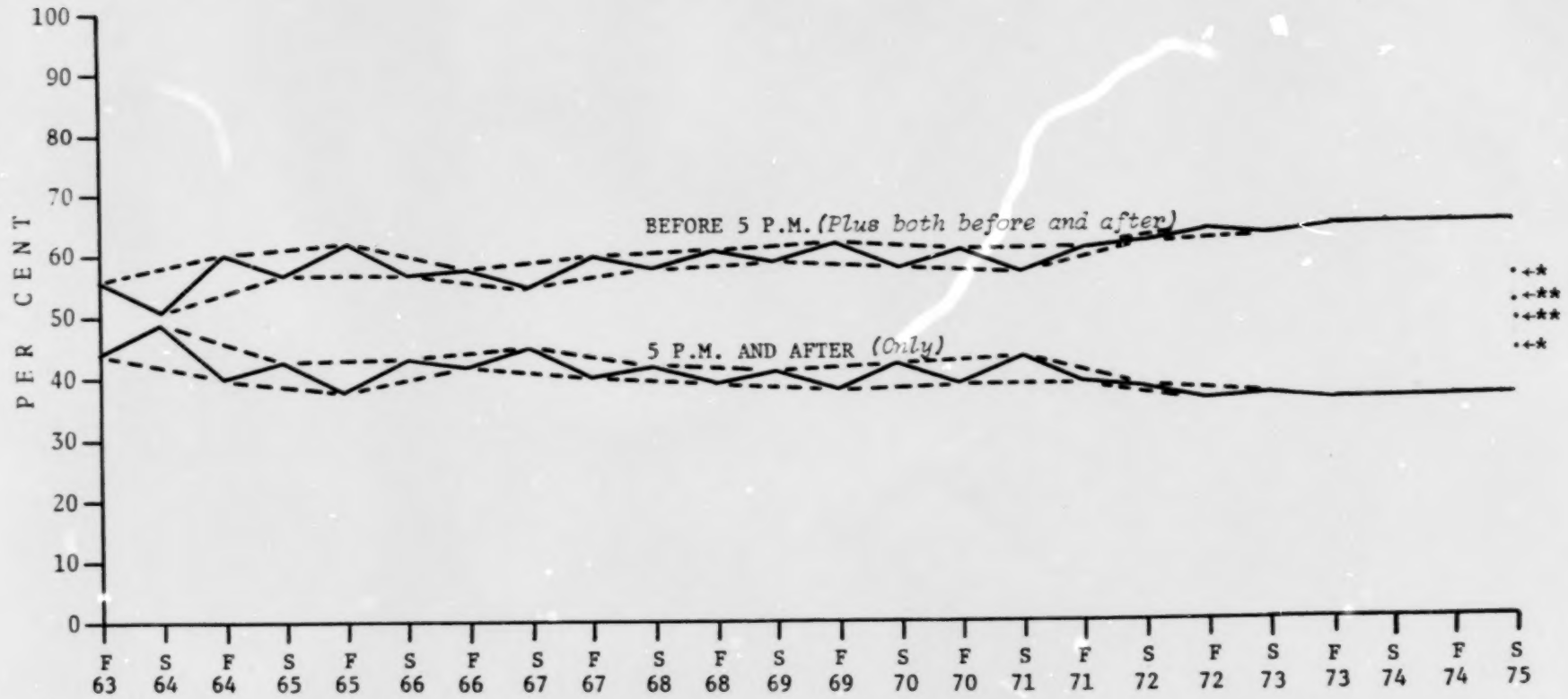
PER CENT MEN AND WOMEN ENROLLMENTS AT EL CAMINO COLLEGE
FROM FALL 1963 TO SPRING 1975



*Fall 1963 reference point

Figure 2

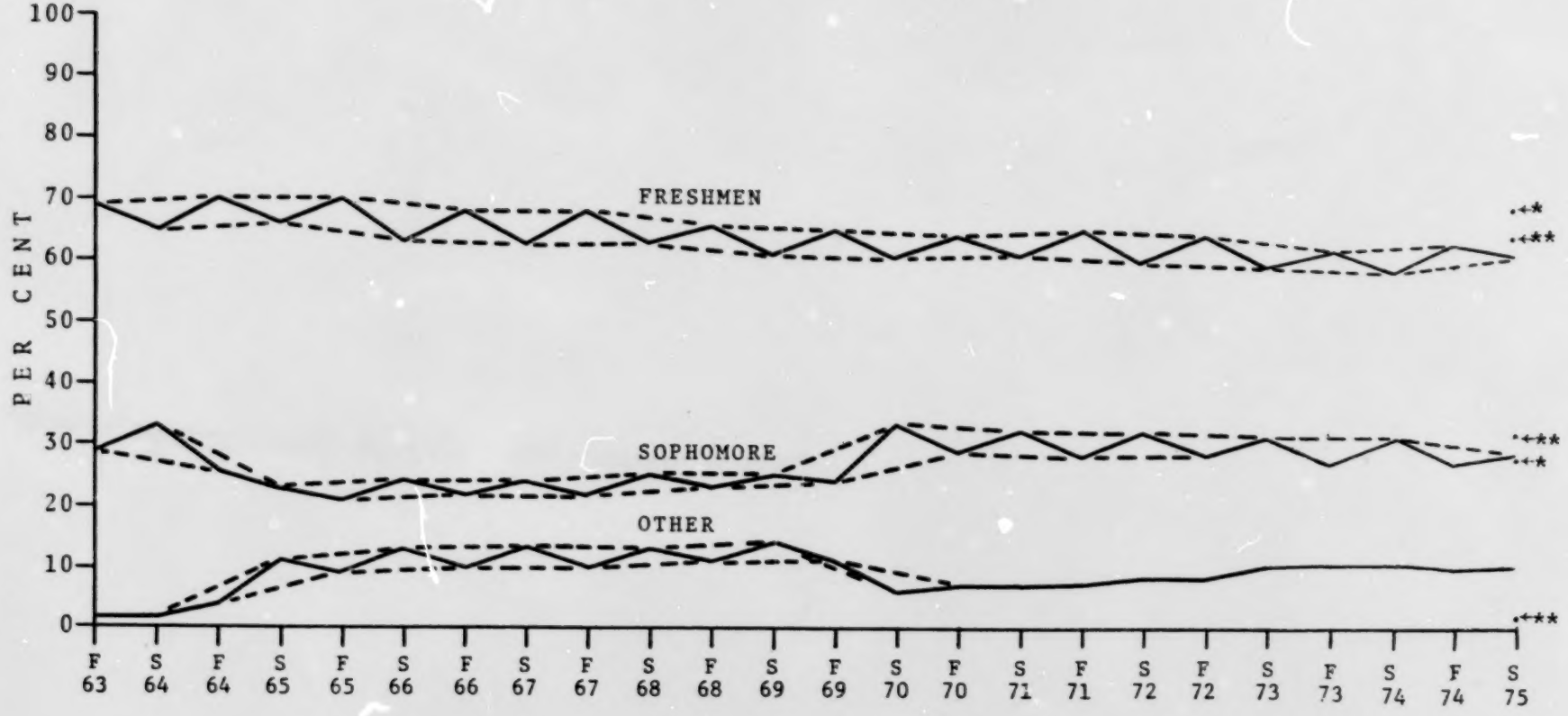
PER CENT ENROLLMENTS BEFORE AND AFTER 5 P.M. AT EL CAMINO COLLEGE
FROM FALL 1963 TO SPRING 1975



*Fall 1963 reference point
**Spring 1964 reference point

Figure 3

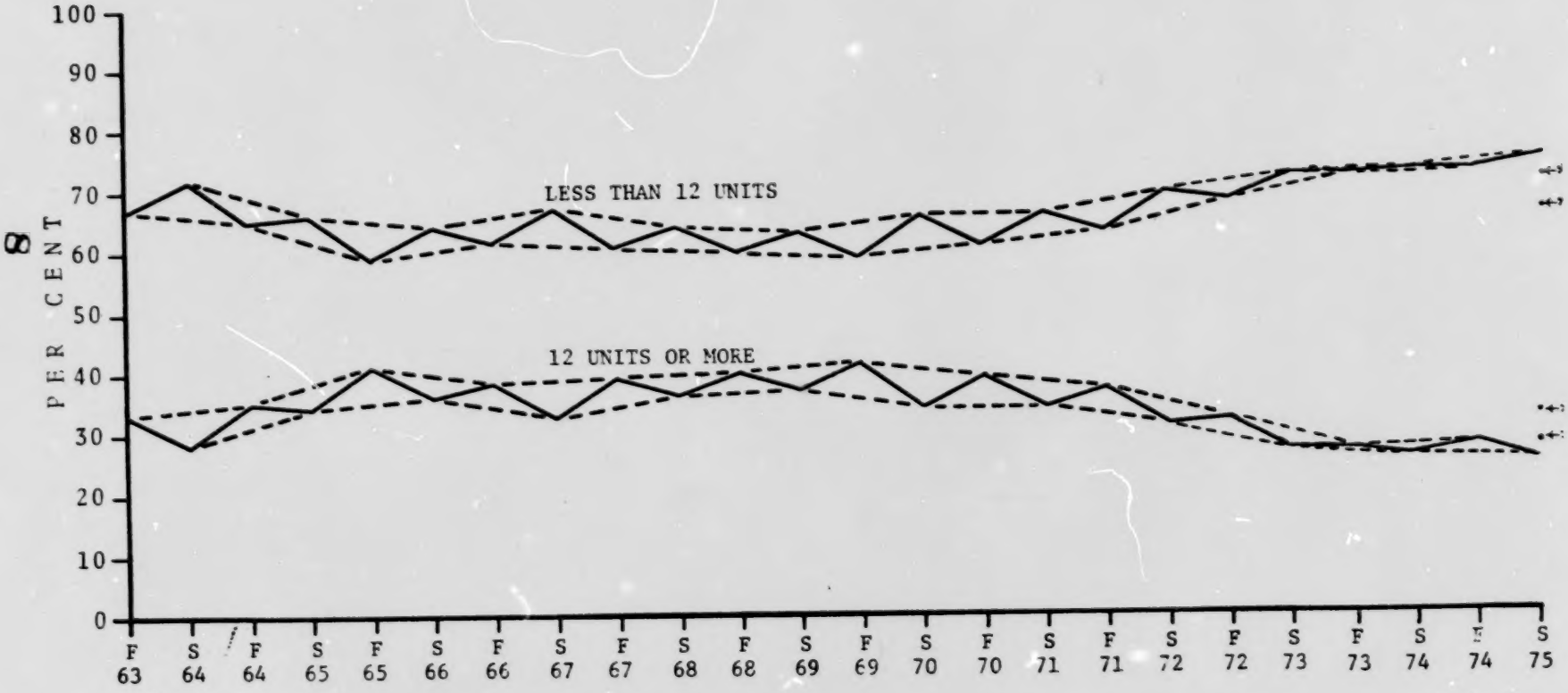
PER CENT FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORE, AND OTHER ENROLLMENTS AT EL CAMINO COLLEGE FROM FALL 1963 TO SPRING 1975



*Fall 1963 reference point
**Spring 1964 reference point

Figure 4

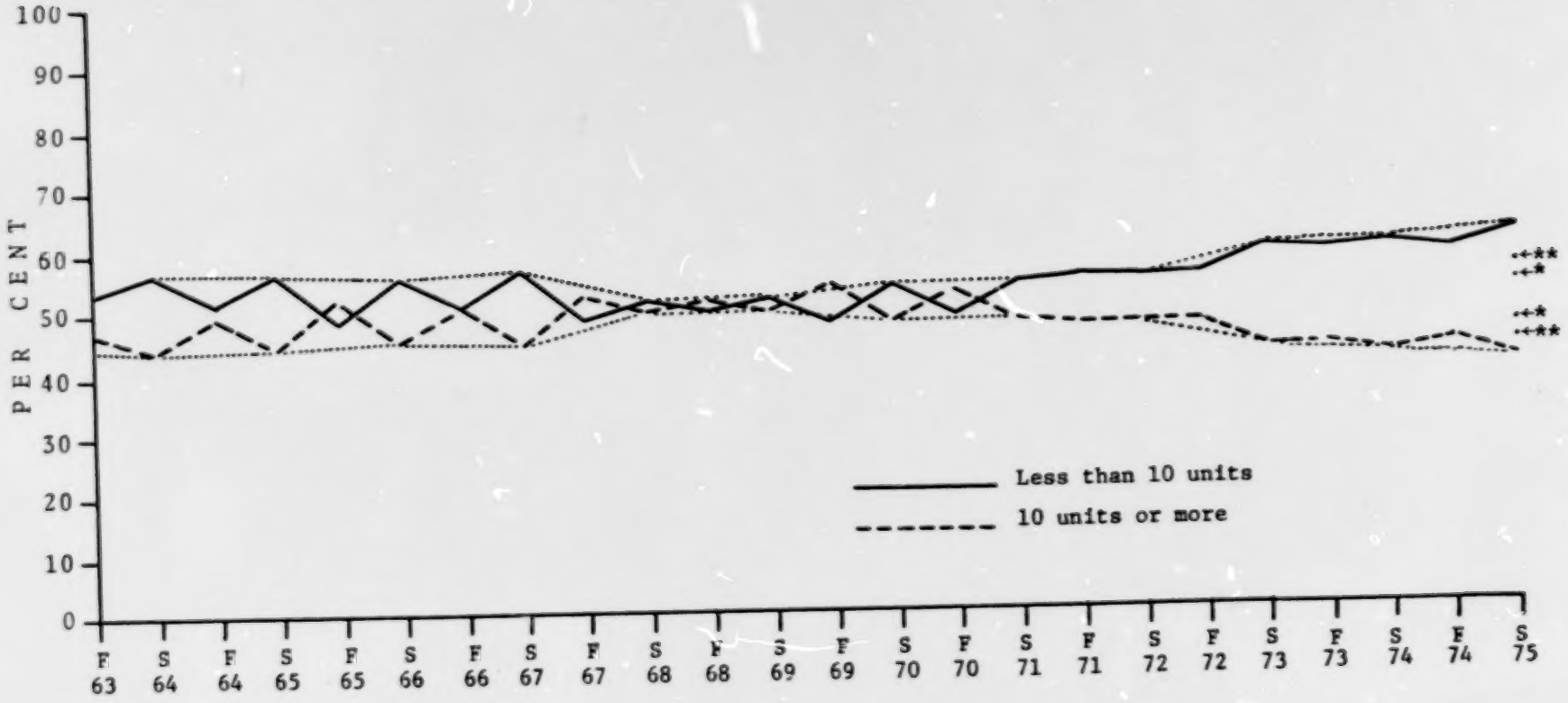
PER CENT OF STUDENTS TAKING 12 UNITS OR MORE AND STUDENTS TAKING LESS THAN 12 UNITS AT EL CAMINO COLLEGE FROM FALL 1963 TO SPRING 1975



*Fall 1963 reference point
**Spring 1964 reference point

Figure 5

PER CENT OF STUDENTS TAKING 10 UNITS OR MORE AND STUDENTS TAKING LESS THAN 10 UNITS AT EL CAMINO COLLEGE FROM FALL 1963 TO SPRING 1975



*Fall 1963 reference point
**Spring 1964 reference point

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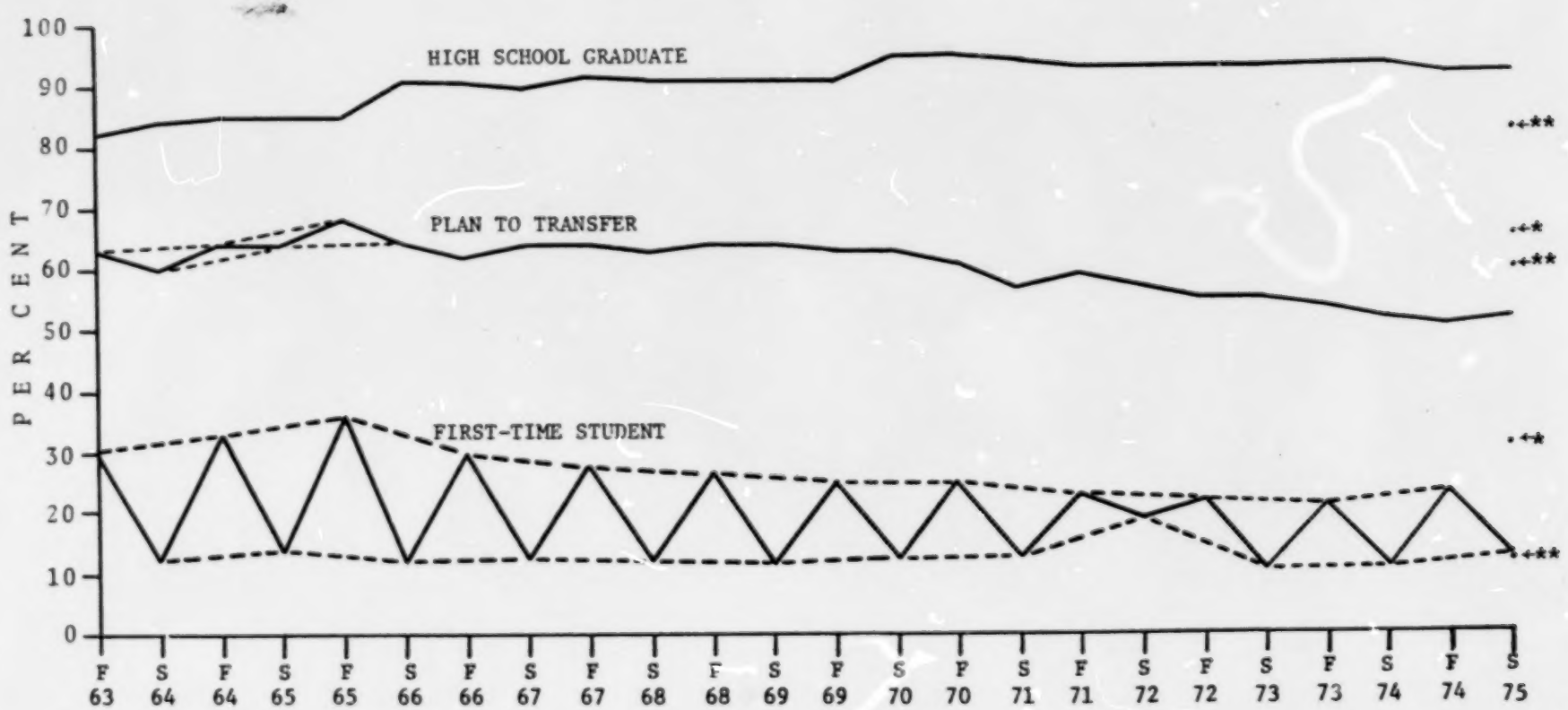
1975

Figure 6

PER CENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, THOSE WHO PLAN TO TRANSFER, AND FIRST-TIME STUDENTS AT EL CAMINO COLLEGE FROM FALL 1963 TO SPRING 1975



*Fall 1963 reference point
**Spring 1964 reference point